

THE LEEWARD ISLANDS FEES STAMPS

In our Bulletin 244 (Feb.'90) there was an article with sub-heading 'Some observations on the M.C./A. and M.C./B. perfins (of Leeward Islands)' by Andrew Hall. No identity for the die was known at the time and no comments about the article was forthcoming thereafter. Andrew Hall was a dealer at the time and he remarked that he had never seen any of these perfined stamps with a postmark and concluded that they were fiscals. He did send illustrations of QV 1d key plate stamps with initials M.A./A. and KEVII Fees stamps with both M.A./A. and M.A./B.

In the May 2003 edition of "*The London Philatelist*" **IAN JAKES** wrote an article with the above heading. He has given his permission to reproduce this article and it does fill in the gaps in Andrew's article from 1990.

*"The only fairly complete reference book of these stamps, ***The Leeward Islands Adhesive Fees Stamps***, by E. V. Toeg FRPSL was published in 1991 by the British West Indies Study Circle. In his introduction to his book, Mr Toeg mentions that even Leeward Islands' specialists had not troubled to include these stamps in any numbers in their collections. Mr Toeg, when preparing his book, had to rely on information to be found at the National Postal Museum; in the archives of the Crown Agents; in the British West Indies Study Circle Bulletins and in the personal collections of a few Leeward Island' specialists.*

Mr Toeg stated that unrecorded varieties would certainly emerge if, as he hoped, his monograph would stimulate interest in these fees stamps. It, therefore, gives me pleasure to report two unrecorded varieties.

The first is a One Shilling lilac and red Queen Victoria fees stamp perf. Mr Toeg mentions in his book that no Leeward Islands Queen Victoria fees stamps as perfins have come to light so far. However, examples of the Leeward Islands 1890 One Penny dull mauve and rose postage and revenue stamps had been found with letters "M.C./A." and "M.C./B." punched out in holes. The punched out letters are considered to be abbreviations for "Magistrates Court Antigua" and "Magistrates Court Barbuda" respectively. The punched out pattern on this newly discovered perfin appears to be the same as the previously recorded pattern and has probably been made by using the same machine. The

stamp does not show any evidence of gum and presumably has been affixed to a document and is, therefore, to be regarded as "used".

The second is a Two Shillings lilac and red Queen Victoria fees stamp, bearing a manuscript cancellation with the initials "W.H.C" and the date underneath "30.11.95". Both the initials and the date have not been previously recorded."



In 1996 the Perfin Society were able to provide additional information on the perfin "2/WIR" of Sierra Leone to the West African Study Circle. It could be that some of our members have copies of the Leeward Islands perfin, M.C./A. or M.C./B., on either postage or fees stamps. If you have, please let me (Ed.) know as many details as possible, not forgetting any manuscript cancellation. I will pass these on to Ian Jakes.

I wonder who made the perfin machine? Could it have been a Sloper machine? Does it appear in any of the "Die Books" we have from Slopers?

Lastly, thanks to Philip Robinson for bringing this article to my attention.